



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

George Platt, Treasurer  
Democratic Executive Committee of Florida  
517 Calhoun Street, Box 1758  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Identification Number: C00005561

APR 12 2000

Reference: Year End Report (7/1/99-12/31/99)

Dear Mr. Platt:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up,

stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

-Schedule H4 discloses a disbursement(s) which is categorized as a fundraising expense(s); however, a Schedule H2 has not been filed to disclose the allocation ratio. All committees are required to allocate the direct costs of each fundraising event in which the committee collects both federal and non-federal funds. The costs are allocated according to the funds received ratio and reported on Schedule H2. 11 CFR §§106.5(f) and 106.6(d). Please file a Schedule H2 to disclose the ratio for the fundraising event(s).

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): Consulting Fee, Contract Work and Expense. For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Your report includes computer produced formats of Schedules A, B and

H4. Computer produced formats may only be used upon prior approval of the Commission. You should submit a separate sample format with a cover letter requesting approval. Until your format has been approved, FEC forms must be used. 11 CFR §104.2(d)

If the software your committee is using to produce the Schedules of the FEC FORM 3X does not allow you to electronically file your report, you may want to call the vendor who produced your software to inquire about the availability of a software upgrade that includes electronic filing. A number of commercial software companies have added electronic filing capability to their products. A list of these companies is available on the FEC web site, <http://www.fec.gov>.

Alternatively, freeware (FECfile) available from the FEC, can help you complete and file your reports electronically. It installs easily, computerizes every schedule in the FEC FORM 3X, contains features to help you avoid common errors, allows you to file electronically, and has free technical support for your questions. You may obtain your free copy by downloading FECfile from our web site, <http://www.fec.gov>, or by calling the Electronic Filing Office at (202) 694-12307.

A written response or an amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Dodson  
Senior Reports Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

